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FOOD INFORMATION CALENDAR

OFFICE OF INFORMATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

May 10, 1946

No. 162

COAL STRIKE AND GARDENING. . . .The coal strike with all it may mean to production and distribution of food emphasizes the need for an even more vigorous 1946 Victory Garden Campaign. Now's the time to stress planting a garden before it is too late or making the most of the one already planted. Good upkeep of the garden, successive plantings, good garden management of all kinds will add to the home food supply and help in the Famine Emergency Campaign. The coal strike is retarding production of tinplate, fertilizer, food container materials, and operation of food processing plants, and is intensifying transportation problems. If the strike continues, the importance of growing and preserving food for home use will increase.

A report of the National Garden Conference held in Washington March 26, 27, and 28, will be distributed within the next ten days through Extension Service and to garden leaders, horticulturist groups, and others who will be in a position to help encourage home food production and preservation. Single requests for the report should be directed to the Director of the National Garden Program, Food Distribution Programs Branch, PMA.

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AGRICULTURAL LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS. . . .Both Houses received the government corporation budget from the President; the Senate Agriculture and Forestry Committee submitted a report opposing price control and subsidies on meat. May 3, the House passed a bill authorizing food shipments to enemy countries (ready for the President). The House Judiciary Committee reported a revised administrative-law bill. May 8, the House agreed to the conference report on the second deficiency appropriation bill which includes items for insect and plant disease control, forest recreation areas, re-centralization of FCA, and water facilities; the House debated the Interior Department appropriation bill (this bill had been reported by the House Appropriations Committee with the budget estimates cut almost in half.)

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CHESTER BOWLES, Director of OES, will speak sometime during the evening of May 15 over the Mutual network, on the stake of the farmer, the businessman, and the housewife in the continuation of a realistic stabilization program. For the exact time of this broadcast consult your local newspaper or broadcasting station.

Please note the following changes in Mr. Bowles' regular weekly broadcast over ABC: In communities on daylight saving time, the hour is 12:00 noon Saturdays; in communities still on Eastern Standard Time (except Washington, D. C.), programs will be heard one hour earlier, Saturdays 11:00 to 11:15 a.m. In Washington (station WMAL) the time has been changed from Saturdays at 12:15 p.m., to 11:45 a.m., EST.

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

STATUS OF WAR FOOD ORDERS. . . Of the 174 War Food Orders issued to date, 52 were in effect May 1. The four new orders issued in 1946 are: WFO 144, on wheat and flour, and WFO 145, on grain and grain products, eff., March 1 and April 1, respectively, issued to help meet the demand for grain; WFO 146, eff., April 1, sought to equalize the distribution of coffee supplies and to facilitate the movement of coffee available to roasters; WFO 2, eff. May 1, provided for the setting aside of butter for military agencies during May and June 1946.

Of the 52 orders in effect May 1, 44 fall under the following commodity classifications: bakery products, 1; canned and processed foods, 2; dairy products, 5; fats and oils, 8; fish, 3; fruit, 1; grain, 5; meats, 4; sugar, 3; and misc. commodities, 12. The other War Food Orders cover delegations of authority for rationing to OPA; food storage facilities; regulations on food imports, priorities, enforcement of priority or allocation orders, and requisitioning of food and feed; and veterans' preference for farm machinery and equipment.

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FARM LABOR. . . The number of veterans working on farms has increased rapidly during the past few months. A BAE Report discussed in Press Release 1013 estimates the total number of veterans who are now on farms at 650,000, based on Bureau of the Census figures. Notwithstanding this boost to farm work, the Department's Farm Labor Division predicts that farm labor will continue to be scarce throughout 1946, especially for seasonal work. No prisoners of war will be available for agriculture after June 20 and fewer foreign workers will be imported because farm labor appropriations are smaller this year. It all adds up to continued need for VOLUNTEER FARM WORKERS for part-time and vacation work.

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PASS THE WORD ALONG that community food preservation centers should be used to their maximum capacity this year for the usual good reasons plus their importance in the Famine Emergency Campaign. This is the theme of a fact sheet being prepared for background information and suggestions for the 1946 Community Food Preservation Program. Pending announcement of the availability of the fact sheet, this fact of urgent importance should be "noised abroad"--schools can get sugar to be used in canning for school lunches this year and they should apply to their district OPA offices as soon as possible for their allotments.

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FOOD PRESERVED IN 1945. . . An estimated 3,400,000,000 quarts of fruits and vegetables were put up in the Nation's homes, both farm and non-farm, in 1945. This figure, which is slightly less than the 1944 estimate, was arrived at from a BAE survey of 3,000 representative households last fall. Results of the survey, made in considerable detail, are expected to be released soon.

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MORE PMA CHANGES. . . .PMA administrator Robert H. Shields' announcement last week that State Agricultural Conservation Committees will henceforth be called State PMA Committees is in line "with previously announced policy of broadening the authority of state offices for centralized program administration." In making new or replacement appointments to the State committees, the policy will be to select men who, in addition to being farm producers, have had very definite experience in other phases of agricultural operations, including distribution, marketing, and processing.

Harold K. Hill of Wisconsin has been made assistant director of the North Central Division of the PMA Field Service Branch, succeeding Guy W. Smith, who is now director of that Division. For other new PMA personnel designations in the field, many of which were made necessary by previously announced personnel changes, see Press Release 962. The States involved are Calif., Ga., Kan., N. Mex., and Tex.

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STRIKES AND FARM MACHINERY. . . .Farm machinery production continued to decline in March, making the decrease about 20 percent less than the January output, according to CPA release No. 334. Effects of the recent steel strike are seen as the main cause of the decline with further decreases anticipated because of the coal strike. Principal decreases were in wheel-type tractors, harvesting machinery, repair parts, and planting, seeding, and fertilizing machinery. Increases in production were reported in light farm equipment such as sprayers, water systems, pumps, and dairy equipment.

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FCIC DIRECTORS. . . .Composition of the FCIC Board of Directors is set out as follows in Secretary's Memorandum No. 1118, Sup. 1, Amend. 1, recently issued: The Secretary of Agriculture, Chairman; the Under Secretary of Agriculture, and the Administrator of PMA. Leroy K. Smith and C. D. Walker of PMA were also made special advisors to the Board and directed to attend all Board meetings.

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MAY 18 -- USDA RADIO PROGRAMS

NATIONAL FARM AND HOME HOUR, NBC, 1:00 p.m., EST. Summary of USDA news developments for farmers; five-minute feature entitled "Department of Agriculture Headlines."

AMERICAN FARMER, ABC, 12:30 p.m., EST. Weekly USDA report for farmers called "The Business Side of Farming."

CONSUMER TIME, NBC, 12:15 p.m., EST. Dramatized story on "Camping Out in Your Nation's Forests." NOTE--Consumer Time won the first award for women's programs given at the Institute for Education by Radio conference at Columbus, Ohio, May 4 and 5. This program has been given this award for the third consecutive year. The Institute is sponsored by Ohio State University.

SOME SIGNIFICANT USDA RELEASES. . . .Alexander E. Wight, of BDI, bovine tuberculosis specialist, retires--958; Combined Food Board announces second quarter rice distribution--959; PMA Committees broadened to aid farm marketing programs--962; How women broadcasters can help on the famine front, address by Chester C. Davis, chairman, Famine Emergency Committee, at Institute for Education by Radio, Columbus, Ohio, May 4--964; World potato production estimates by OFAR--971; Pork and lard set asides increased under amend. 30 to WFO 75.3--981; Bumper potato crop reported (May 8 Food and Home Notes)--957; Boll weevil situation appears serious this year--988; Earl B. Wilson, director of PMA's Sugar Branch, resigns effective 5/31/46--991; May 7 Statement of Secretary Anderson before Senate Commerce Committee on industrialization of underdeveloped areas--993; Secretary Anderson's address before Delta Council, Cleveland, Miss., 5/8/46 (about cotton)--996; Veterans returning to farm work--1013.

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OTHER RELEASES OF AGRICULTURAL INTEREST. . . .Fresh apricots, sweet cherries, plums, and Italian prunes exempted from price control (watermelons suspended from control)--OPA-6470; basic ceiling price for late apples sold after August 19 reduced from \$2.75 to \$2.73 a bu.--OPA-6452; custom slaughtering limitations on live and dressed lamb, yearlings, and sheep announced--OPA-T-4498; Present maximum prices for binder twine to continue through 1946--OPA-6469; Wooden fence posts sold in quantities costing \$10 or less to be increased 20 percent on May 14--OPA-6465.

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"I AM AN AMERICAN DAY". . . .Secretary Anderson called for appropriate observance of "I Am An American Day," the third Sunday in May, in his recent memorandum No. 1159. He quoted from President Truman's 1946 Proclamation of the Day which was established by Congress in 1940. The Secretary stressed the importance of USDA employees as they arrive at the age of 21 learning more about and recognizing to a greater extent what it means to be a citizen of the United States and to serve its people.

A pamphlet about "I Am An American Day" is being distributed to all employees of the Department arriving at the age of 21. Some 10,000 copies of a similar pamphlet containing a message from Secretary Anderson to 4-H Club members, is being sent to 4-H Clubs. A number of USDA Clubs are planning special programs in observance of the Day and a program for Washington and Beltsville, Maryland, employees will be held Thursday, May 16, in Washington.

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M. L. WILSON, Director of Extension Service, has been awarded the 1946 medallion for distinguished service in adult education offered by the Adult Elementary Division of the Board of Education, New York City. Mr. Wilson's work as Director of USDA's Extension Services for the past six years was the basis of the award. He will receive the medallion at the "I Am An American Day" luncheon of the group on May 18.

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* RECENT USDA PUBLICATIONS--Home Freezing of Fruits and Vegetables, *
* AIS-48, 24 p., supersedes AWI-100, How *
* to Prepare Vegetables and Fruits for Freezing; Our American Land, *
* The Story of Its Abuse and Its Conservation, by SCS, Misc. Pub., *
* No. 598, well-illustrated, 31 p. *
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